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USSR

018

From: WASHINGTON

To: MOSCOW

No: 1646

17 July 43

To: KUZNETSOV, VORONTSOV.

According to the report [1 group unrecovered] MOL'. [1]

[3 groups unrecovered] the Red Fleet Seamen [KRASNOFLOTETS] deserters BUSHUEV, KUZNETSOV, ShohERBAKOV and BUTOROV. As the local representative of the Naval [1 group unrecovered] (a Naval Intelligence [RAZVEDKA] man, Commander ERDMAN) informed us about the matter in the first place, it is necessary to arrange their despatch to the Union and notify the Naval [1 group unrecovered] and possibly [1 group unrecovered].

The offenders were arrested on board ship and will be sent from TAMPA under armed guard to NEW ORLEANS and from there by the tanker AZERBAJDZHAN to VLADIVOSTOK.

The action of Naval Intelligence is explained by

- (1) the uselessness to them of the persons named,
- (ii) a desire to avoid complications with us if the deserters were concealed,
- (iii) an attempt by ERDMAN to restore in our [0% eyes] [6 groups unrecovered].

No. 511

[Unidentified name], [11] [Unidentified name] [111]

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Comments: [1] MOL' : Possibly Mikhail Nikolaevich MOLL of the Soviet Purchasing Commission February 1943-September 1946.

[11] Unidentified name: Name No. 83

[111] Unidentified name: Name No. 5.

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